



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner
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For Immediate Release – June 10, 2005

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PSC to Hold Public Hearing on SBC Request to Remove Price Restrictions

MADISON – The Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold a public hearing by videoconference in Madison, Milwaukee, Menasha and Eau Claire on Friday, June 17th regarding a proposal by SBC to remove price restrictions on basic residential telephone service for 17 exchanges in Wisconsin.

SBC is currently limited on how much it may change its rates for basic residential service without Commission review or approval. Under state law passed in 1994, SBC is allowed to request suspension of these rate restrictions if there are other telecommunication providers in the area. SBC has filed an application for the ability to raise these rates in certain exchanges at any time without Commission consent. SBC cites in its application that there is enough competition for basic residential service, so price regulation by the PSC is no longer necessary.

The 17 exchanges impacted are Appleton, Beloit, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, Madison, Manitowoc, Menomonee Falls, Milwaukee, Neenah-Menasha, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, Stevens Point and Waukesha.

The basic residential telephone services would be subject to potentially higher rates. These include the cost of a telephone line, per call usage, extended community calling to some neighboring communities and connection charges for establishing service.

The purpose of this videoconference hearing is to get public comment on SBC's request. In making its decision, the Commission can approve the application as submitted, modify SBC's request or deny the application. Citizens are invited to provide testimony that will be included in the record the Commission reviews in making its decisions. The videoconference public hearing will be held in two sessions:

**Friday, June 17, 2005
1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

**Public Service Commission Building
Amnicon Falls Hearing Room
610 N. Whitney Way
Madison, Wisconsin**

**MATC-Milwaukee
Student Center, Room 5120
700 West State Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

(MORE)

**UW-Fox Valley
Room 1838
1478 Midway Road
Menasha, Wisconsin**

**Chippewa Valley Technical College
Manufacturing Education Center
Room 130
2320 Alpine Road
Eau Claire, Wisconsin**

All locations are accessible to people in wheelchairs. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Chris Larson, Docket Coordinator, at (608) 267-9508.

The documents associated with SBC's application can be viewed on our Electronic Repository System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Click on ERF System, select Search Electronic Repository System and enter docket #6720-TI-196.

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